

72nd Working Group Meeting of the MEA IKM Initiative

Thursday, February 16, 2023, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM GMT+3

Audio Conference – Bonn, Geneva, Nairobi, Montreal, Rome, Singapore

Draft Report

Meeting Participants

BRS – Osmany PEREIRA, Julien HORTONEDA
CBD – Frederic VOGEL
CITES – Shashika SEDARA-HETTIGE
IPBES – Benedict OMARE
Minamata Convention – Anna GARCIA SANS
Wetlands Convention – Manuel KERN, Edmund JENNINGS
UNCCD – Jeroen Van DALEN
UNECE – Maryna YANUSH
UNFCCC – Jingwen YANG
UNEP GRID - Quoc-Hy DAO
UNEP Science Division (WESR) – Simon OBIERO MOGAKA
IWC – Moussa Ki SOW

KM Team

UNEP – Eva DUER, Kelly KABIRU, Iddah KAMAU, Peter SPEELMAN, Lillian ONYANGO, Andrew COCCOLI, Stephen TENG'O

1. Suggested in-person Working Group Meeting with WESR/Digital Transformation

Ms. Duer introduced the topic of the UNEP-supported digital transformation process, which supports the implementation of a Science Policy Interface. This process envisages a better integration of normative and MEA-related data with the scientific tools including the World Environment Situation Room (WESR). This work has several implications for front-end applications, for ensuring that users are connecting the right types of information, and for aligning different ontologies, terminologies, and ways of working. In the context of this work, a proposal has been raised to combine some funds available under the InforMEA project with some from the Law Division.

An exceptional in-person working group meeting for this group combined with a WESR/DigiTrans meeting has been proposed for 20-22 June 2023 in Montreux. This meeting will provide a forum to forge a way forward on projects like integration with UN country Teams, and linking back to some of the Law Division processes like the Law and Environment Assistance Platform (LEAP) and DaRT.

Action points:

- MEAs to “Save the Date” for an extraordinary in-person working group meeting on 20-22 June 2023 in Montreux, Switzerland.

2. Presentation by GRID on dataset matching on the Science-Policy Interface

Following the proposal from the 71st InforMEA Working Group meeting of 29 November 2022, a presentation by GRID on potential datasets was made by Mr. Quoc-Hy Dao, Head of the Metadata and Socio-Economics unit at UNEP GRID-Geneva. The presentation focused on statistical and geospatial data sets: (I) Datasets of interest; (II) Content of interest to WESR/Content of interest to MEAs/CCAs-

UNCTs; and (III) API user tracking and tracking codes, with a brief introduction of WESR. The full presentation by GRID is attached to this report.

Action points:

- UNFCCC requested GRID for an online session to introduce the tool to their Secretariat staff.
- CBD requested to follow up with GRID on access to data, e.g., on reporting or progress on indicators.

3. Side event at BRS COP 8-11 May 2023

Ms. Duer introduced the possibility of a joint side event at the [BRS COP](#) in May 2023. MEAs interested in participating were invited to follow up with InforMEA.

4. Update on the InforMEA Project – (Draft Progress Report/ Concept Note Phase IV/ Highlights)

Ms. Duer updated the group on the extension of the InforMEA Project from Phase III to Phase IV. The technical approval of the Concept Note occurred on 3 February 2023. The Note will be formally approved by the Programme Steering Committee co-chairs either at the upcoming 10th Programme Steering Committee meeting or through written procedure. From the recommendations of the Mid-term review of InforMEA Phase III (2020-2022), there is a strong push for InforMEA to focus on the National Focal Points. *(Recommendation #2: The InforMEA Initiative should be providing higher quality Outreach activities and documentation, directed specifically to the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the MEAs Parties, identified as the main stakeholders of the Initiative, and aimed to a) inform them on the services and information available through the Platform; b) train the interested NFPs in retrieving and using this information; and c) solicit their feedback on how to make the InforMEA Platform further meeting their needs.)*

5. Negotiator's section – Rules of Procedures, AKN use case.

A specific session is to be scheduled for this topic later.

6. Updates/ Feedback by MEAs

- **Minamata Convention** (Ms. Garcia-Sans) is working to complete the new features on their online reporting system. The Secretariat has developed automatic dashboards using the Google API with a Drupal module that exports the data that they want to visualize and has managed to finalize the reports. A new report submission inside the reporting system is now automatically updated because of this update. The Secretariat will soon start sharing the dashboard with the Parties. Minamata supports the idea of having a side event at the BRS COP in May 2023 where it would like to showcase what the Convention has been developing in terms of data interoperability and exchange, and improvements to the online reporting system. The GEF communicated their continued interest in collaborating with Minamata, which they will consider closely later.
- **BRS** (Mr. Hortonedá) enquired if UNEP GRID is already harvesting or retrieving some data from InforMEA, especially on publications and documents. Which frequency are they updating this data and via what mechanism. BRS also queried if there is anything in InforMEA that may be of interest to WESR.

- **CBD** (Mr. Vogel) reported the adoption in December 2023 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) which sets out goals, targets, and indicators. The Secretariat is in the process of developing an ontology around the GBF indicators and some have been agreed on. CBD has begun experimenting with this on PoolParty.
- **CITES** (Mr. Sedara) has some trade datasets within the Secretariat which could be a great addition to WESR's dataset. On the document tagging process, CITES recently concluded implementation on a staging server to go forward with tagging meeting documents, and will be extending the process to thematical documents. The Secretariat went through the demo of the online reporting system and is planning to adopt the system developed by Minamata and Eau de Web. On E-Learning, CITES has planned for about 14 new basic and advanced courses. For the BRS COP side event, CITES would be interested in showing some information on their compliance mechanism.
- **UNFCCC** (Ms. Yang) introduced a new design on how to present the UNFCCC content on their website. UNFCCC had an issue harvesting data from the InforMEA website, which was recently resolved. On E-learning, 3 new courses are being developed to be published on InforMEA. They are also working to develop a database known as the enhanced transparency framework, which relates to implementation of the Paris Agreement. This database will collect data from the Parties and synthesize and present the data for different purposes.
- **IPBES** (Mr. Omare) Secretariat will hold the tenth session of the [IPBES Plenary \(IPBES 10\)](#) from 28 August to 2 September 2023, where they plan to make an interface with visualizations of some of the key findings of the forthcoming assessment of invasive alien species. IPBES is interested in taking part in discussions on APIs.
- **Wetlands Convention** (Mr. Kern) is in the process of rebuilding their website with the latest Drupal version and will soon implement a new mechanism for harvesting. To expose their data to InforMEA, they will move from the toolkit to the new Drupal version. Secondly, there is an ongoing process to re-develop their online reporting system, which reached a new milestone. Related to this is the call for synergies by the DaRT team and ensuring these are linked.
- **IWC** (Mr. Ki Sow) gave an update on sharing IWC data with InforMEA, and mentioned the commission is looking to fund a new reporting system.

7. Update on E-Learning

Mr. Speelman gave an update that three new courses have been launched since the 13th InforMEA Steering Committee meeting in October 2022: (I) [Environment and Trade](#); (II) [Introductory Course to Gender and the Environment](#); and (III) [Basic principles of Chairing and Role of the Chairs of Meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions](#). UNFCCC has a number of courses in the pipeline in collaboration with InforMEA. The InforMEA team is creating MEA sections on the InforMEA portal which will ultimately house the portfolios of MEA courses. Course Translations on the InforMEA portal will be visible online in the next six months. Future translations of the e-learning courses will be roughly prioritized based on course uptake, related events or processes, and any outreach plans to promote translations. Meanwhile if MEAs have available funding to translate their own courses the InforMEA team will support with uploading onto the InforMEA portal.

8. Any other business

Ms. Kamau added that a customized demo on the API management tool for InforMEA is scheduled for 17 December 2023. The demo is on an API Management platform that helps organizations manage

their API securely and efficiently. It has a range of features such as an API gateway, development bar, portal, analytics, and security control. There is a potential for a customized solution for InforMEA.

According to feedback from WESR and the UNEP Communications Division, InforMEA has come up with an OData FAQ page to assist developers to use our APIs. Any feedback from the MEAs will help to improve quality and usability of the APIs.